

The Lost Geronimo Stilton eBooks
A Guidebook Featuring Collected Evidence

The CyberRead Archives Team

[r/CyberReadArchives](https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives)



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Note – This is only a guidebook to the lost eBooks as a way to introduce people to the search (even if they are not skilled in lost media). As more details are found and details given in this book are updated. Unfortunately, the book cannot be updated with time. After the eBooks are found, it can be used for archival purposes.

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1 –THE eBooks (INTRODUCTION)

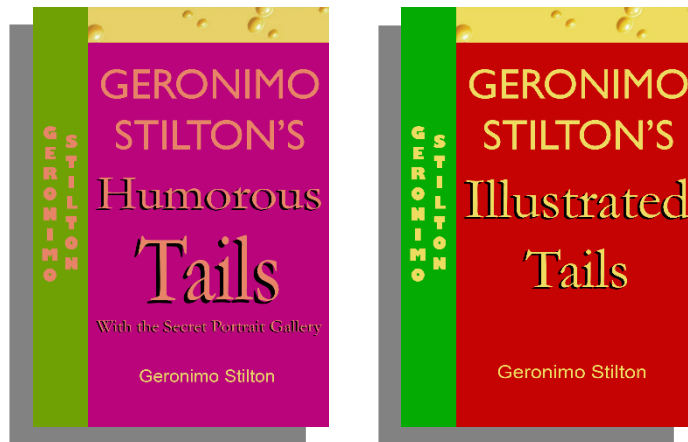
1. Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tails

- Year Published – 2000
- Language – English
- Publishers – Edizioni Piemme
- Type – Interactive
- Software – Microsoft Reader, Glassbook Reader (later Adobe Acrobat e-Book Reader)
- Extensions – EBX, LIT
- ISBN – Unknown
- Price - \$9.99
- Extra Features – Hidden image gallery
- Pages – 300
- Size – 14MB?

2. Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails

- Year Published – 2000
- Language – English
- Publishers – Edizioni Piemme
- Type – Interactive
- Software – Microsoft Reader, Glassbook Reader (later Adobe Acrobat e-Book Reader)
- Extensions – EBX, LIT
- ISBN – 8838455325
- Price – \$9.99 (or not)
- Extra Features – Unknown
- Pages - 300
- Size – 14 MB?

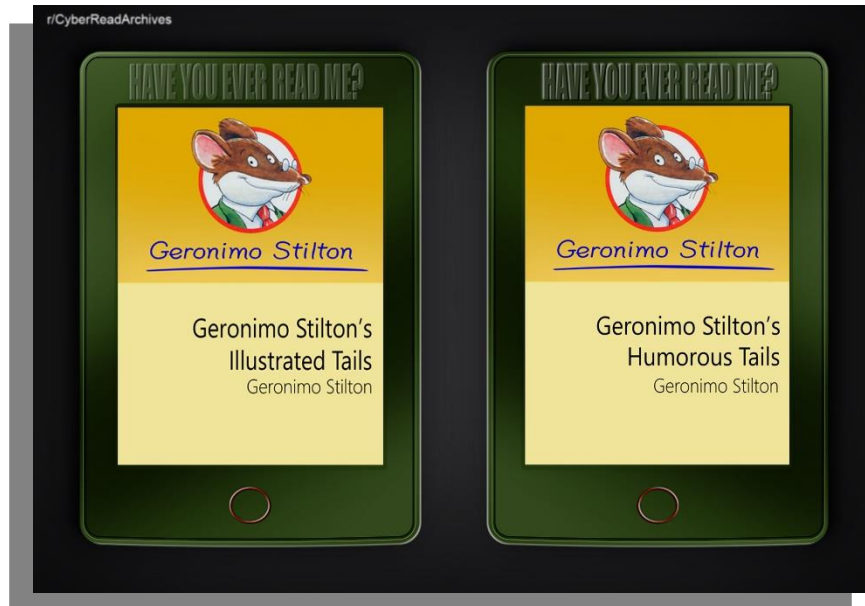
Recreations of eBook Covers



Set 1 – Created by u/Visual_Aide_2477 on August 27th 2024

(Link -

https://www.reddit.com/r/geronimostilton/comments/1f29bl5/does_anyone_know_these_two_books_they_are/)



Set 2* (Encased with subreddit name text above) – Created by u/Visual_Aide_2477 on August 27th 2024

(Link (Separate versions) –

https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives/comments/1fiu4z6/the_new_book_covers_for_the_geronimo_stilton/)

(Link (Encased version with text) –

https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives/comments/1gmbmq2/you_know_what_something_feels_uncanny_about_those/)

*Set 2 got to be after Reddit user u/Ok_Hope4383 extracted an image from a digital issue of now-defunct Italian computing magazine PC Open (Issue: November 2000) at page 30. Here's the image, below:



(Link - <https://archive.org/details/pc-open-2000-11/page/n29/mode/2up>)

Why and What makes them Interactive?

Haven't you checked that earlier? Look below and make a guess:

- Type – Interactive

And this:

- Extra Features – Hidden image gallery

Well, this "Interactive" is for both books and the "Hidden image gallery" is for ***Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tails***. What does this mean?

These eBooks were designed to be interactive as a way to create more fun within young readers (or is it?). Unfortunately, they didn't seem to be so successful in sales. Really bad!

There were lot of features that were in the eBooks which later made it into two apps made in 2010 (now also lost media which is very likely!). The links will be given later in this chapter.

Here's a list based on information on various sources:

1. Ability to animate illustrations, sounds and music (and the ability to enable and disable them).
2. View character profiles.
3. Make notes and underline text.
4. Hidden stuff (links, more).

Various unlisted stuff can be found as well but just think of how cool and yet scary the concept is. Reminds us of any horror indie game released recently. Isn't it?

Or even better, a precursor to an average 2010s app! That's how the iPad app concept for Geronimo Stilton was born, as said, it may be lost but no original content, just digitalized, possibly, less-interactive versions of printed eBooks and is only somewhat related to the 2000 eBooks. Really, ten years ahead of its time.

Also, why the terms "e-Book" and "eBook"? That depends on anyone's ideas on how to write it (eBook is short for 'electronic book'). That also includes "e-book" and "E-book". It doesn't matter.

Even more, you could research the stories and make up the plot (whether it's one whole story or not) and save the data into the eBook itself or Notepad, Microsoft Word or more. Kind of scary, isn't it?

There is another Geronimo Stilton app (released in 2013) but it doesn't contain any eBook at all and cost only \$1.99 dollars (depending on country and currency you use along with times (inflation, deflation) which is the same thing with the eBooks from 2000 and apps from 2010). Actually, it also seems to have vanished out of nowhere! We'll explain it further in this chapter.

Yet, also... did we forget to tell you that one of the apps made in 2010 was an adaptation of ***Geronimo Stilton: The Kingdom of Fantasy*** which surprisingly shares almost everything with the two eBooks published in 2000 but probably more advanced and with more stuff like coloring pages, it seems not though. Sadly, it also may seem to be lost media too like the other app (screenshot below).



Doesn't this remind you of the lost eBooks from the year 2000. Sort of!

As you may have been waiting for the links, well... here they are!

The links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQHjyfSawjs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kBVVJdQeaU>
- <https://www.mondadorigroup.com/media-room/news-and-press-releases/year-2010/geronimo-stilton-on-the-ipad-interactive-apps-now-available>
- <https://geronimostilton.com/US-en/e-book-app-geronimo-stilton/scheda.php?id=8008>

For your information, the first two links leads to YouTube videos on the two apps. Seems similar in content described above when relating to those eBooks, right?

The last two links are the news about those iPad apps (check out the details, you will find that the Kingdom of Fantasy app is so close to the original eBooks from the year 2000) and the 2013 app. Although details about the 2010 apps and 2013 app are available. It seems, they have vanished without a trace. It is strange and heartbreaking that every collaboration with Geronimo Stilton disappears without a trace. Could it be a curse?

No, but it seems something is hidden deep beneath.

The Italians who own Geronimo Stilton (Edizioni Piemme S.p.A) must be very neglectful that so many things lost in time. Also, with details about them mysteriously vanishing online even if the Internet becomes so powerful to search everything in the entire universe.

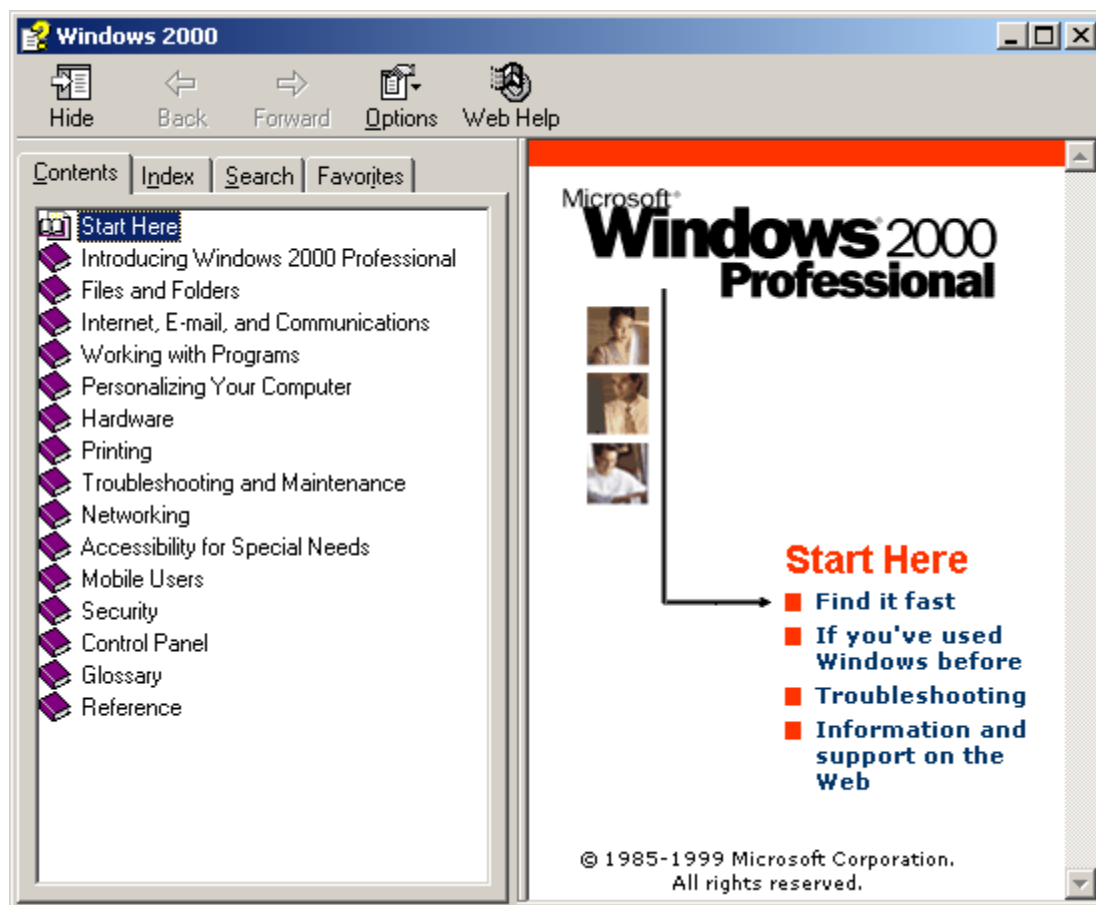
Also, when speaking about the eBooks from 2000, you may think "How did they get knowledge on such a thing I never knew existed? Besides, it's not even online!". The next chapter will tell you how it came to be.

Also, if you're feeling curious about the 2013 app, here's two links for you, a YouTube video and someone's Italian post on [r/Lostmediaitalia](https://www.reddit.com/r/Lostmediaitalia/):

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtWV_URBkHA
- https://www.reddit.com/r/Lostmediaitalia/comments/1bnakcr/app_di_geronimo_stilton_del_2013/

It seems the app disappeared somehow within 2022, those three apps. Since then, a video hasn't surfaced. The other apps within 2015. We are still not sure.

Also, unfortunately for those willing to search, this guide is about the 2000s eBooks and not these. They are only mentioned in this guide as a possible development of those eBooks and an idea of what the interface of the eBooks could look like. The 2000 interface was less complex than the 2010s so we don't know much yet. Probably something like a Windows (95,98, 2000) Help file.



(Source - GUIdebook: Graphical User Interface gallery)

The image seen above this text is the Help file for Windows 2000 (although copyright says 1999). It features animations, links (sometimes hidden,

sometimes not) and more other things shared by the two eBooks. Another thing is the Microsoft Reader Help eBook which will be discussed later in this guide.

You may now already know the names of the two eBooks:

- ***Gerónimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails***
- ***Gerónimo Stilton's Humorous Tails***

But you still ask "I didn't know these existed; I know what eBooks are but how did **they** (we) get to know they existed once?" Well, as we are at the end of this chapter. The next one will tell you:

2 –THE DISCOVERY

In this chapter, as we promised... you are going to learn how we found their existence. Actually, one person...

Reddit user u/Visual_Aide_2477!

Although he was mentioned a few times in the first chapter, he was the one who started this search straight from a single click.

It all started in March when he (a fan of Geronimo Stilton, which he loved since childhood) was interested in what the Geronimo Stilton website (original Italian) would look like in the early years of the Internet.

So, it all starts simply, he searches the Wayback Machine and clicks on it and then types "Geronimo Stilton" and clicks on the earliest set year for the site (2000).



See, the beauty of it back then, simple and pleasant and really nostalgic. Did we forget to mention that the image of Geronimo appears on the cover of this guide as well?

Do you know the name CyberRead, it's in the small underlined text highlighted in an annoyingly bright green:

[CyberRead.com](http://www.cyberread.com)

It's in the name of the subreddit. But when u/Visual_Aide_2477 clicked on it, a window popped up with this message and an unarchived image:



The text "[cyberread.com](http://www.cyberread.com)" again appears but with a simple 'c' instead of a capital one which is also with the letter 'r'. Still can't see it? This time, it's in a more visible and darker hue. Clicking on it this time will lead somewhere else but for now, here's an English translation of it:

- Dear rodent friends, I have something very important to tell you! From now on, you can also read my adventures in an e-book! I have two e-books: **Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails** and **Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tails with the Secret Portrait Gallery**. You can buy Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails online at [cyberread.com](http://www.cyberread.com). The other one, with the secret portrait gallery, will be online... very soon!

The date in which he discovered it is unknown but at least we know the year, 2024! A great year for lost media...

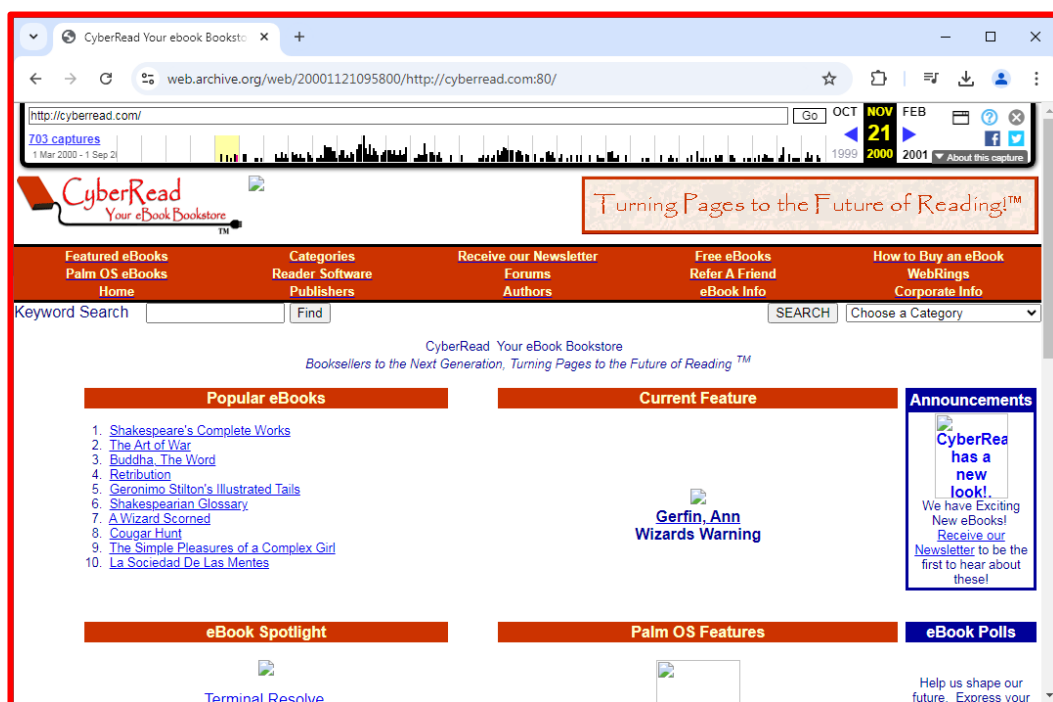
However, he decided not to click on the green, underlined text till one month later, he decided to do it. The names of the eBooks were stuck and are still stuck with him but he didn't care about it. When he did click on it, it led to a "This domain is for sale!" window. That is because the site where the eBooks were sold got defunct in 2011!

If you are interested in visiting the old site, here's the link:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20001117204100/http://www.geronimostilton.it/>

As a result of the green, underlined text being a pop up, I decided not to provide the link. Just click on it If you want to get u/Visual_Aide_2477's experience.

After typing 'CyberRead' on the Wayback Machine, he clicked the earliest set year (1999) and then another year (2000). What he saw was truly upsetting and incredible. Unarchived images as well as luxurious red hues. On the list for "Popular eBooks" (this is how we literally got this wording for E-books), on the fifth place, there was this!



Link:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20001121095800/http://cyberread.com/>

Also, when he clicked on the fifth blue underlined text in the list, he got another surprise, one more unarchived image and also more details on ***Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails*** you may have found at the beginning of the first chapter of this guide. Sadly, the website was heavily unarchived in its early years so nothing about the second book's appearance is there.



We have no idea on the second book but we can guess well on it. It's implied in various sources (to be discussed later). If you want to know whether it can be purchased today within the Wayback Machine, heck! No.

One more link:

- https://web.archive.org/web/20010618131446/http://www.cyberread.com/search_result.asp?PRODUCT_ID=ISBN:8838455325

Afterwards, he decided to wait for some more days and finally post it on [r/lostmedia](#). The link is below:

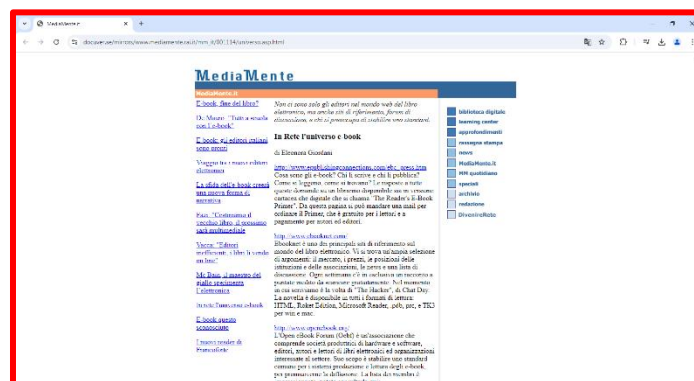
- https://www.reddit.com/r/lostmedia/comments/1biepyk/fully_lost_geronimo_stilton_ebooks_1997_2008/

It is important to know that u/Visual_Aide_2477 himself has a history of lost media and had aided in the search for Everyone Knows That (now Ulterior Motives by Christopher Saint Booth). He has one more case of lost media (that is almost never discussed nowadays) and also his very first post ever (original deleted, modified repost) on [r/tipofmytongue](#) and [r/lostmedia](#).

Link:

- https://www.reddit.com/r/tipofmytongue/comments/1ba8jpi/tomt_cartoon_late_90s_early_00s_redwall_like/
- https://www.reddit.com/r/lostmedia/comments/1bfzqxb/talk_die_ratten_von_hameln_beautiful_german/

After a lack of leads and a hypothetical title for the animated series mentioned in the two links above (Die Ratten Von Hameln, a German animated series with an identical art style to later Geronimo Stilton books), he abandoned it to work on finding Jeff The Killer then gave up (but this was after the eBooks being discovered (titles only)). He then went on to find it by himself which was too troublesome as there was no evidence to find it. He even tried translating the titles in Italian which proved no luck. One day in August... u/Visual_Aide_2477 discovered something new:



While doing his normal search, he came across an unexpected result from an archived page of a still active Italian site named MediaMente. There was a 24-year-old article on eBooks and to his surprise; while going below, he found the names of the two eBooks in one passage mentioned below. However, when he translated the page using Google Translate. A mind-blowing surprise! It turns out those eBooks actually had some historical significance even if 24 years ago is too recent for some people today. First, here is the text in Italian. If you want his experience further, click the link below:

http://www.geronimostilton.it/ufficio/g_stilton.html
E per finire, uno sguardo ai primi e-book prodotti in Italia. Sono dedicati ai ragazzi e a lanciarli è stata la casa editrice piemontese Piemme nello scorso ottobre. Il protagonista è un topo che si chiama Geronimo Stilton, fa il giornalista e dirige l'"Eco del Roditore". I libri elettronici, che si possono comprare sulla libreria virtuale [Cyberread](#), sono realizzati con la tecnica Microsoft Reader e consentono al lettore di "agire" sul testo sottolineandolo, aggiungendo note e consultando approfondimenti sui personaggi della storia. Al topo Geronimo Piemme ha già dedicato un progetto più vasto che comprende, oltre all'e-book, una serie di libri stampati e un sito Internet. Due per ora i titoli elettronici: "Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails" e "Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tails with the Secret Portrait Gallery".

- https://docuver.se/mirrors/www.mediamente.rai.it/mm_it/001114/universo.asp.html

Also, here's the translation of this text in the image above (links also inactive for better reasons):

- And finally, a look at the first e-books produced in Italy. They are dedicated to children and were launched by the Piedmontese publishing house Piemme last October. The protagonist is a mouse called Geronimo Stilton, who is a journalist and directs the "Eco del Roditore". The e-books, which can be purchased on the virtual bookstore Cyberread are created using the Microsoft Reader technique and allow the reader to "act" on the text by underlining it, adding notes and consulting in-depth information on the characters in the story. Geronimo Piemme has already dedicated a larger project to the mouse that

includes, in addition to the e-book, a series of printed books and a website. There are two e-titles for now: "Geronimo Stilton's Illustrated Tails" and "Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tails with the Secret Portrait Gallery".

See! These seem to be Italy's very first eBooks, right? Not really, check this article on Wikipedia to see if our views are correct.

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebook>

What does this mean? Check this out:

- The e-books, which can be purchased on the virtual bookstore Cyberread are created using the Microsoft Reader technique and allow the reader to "act" on the text by underlining it, adding notes and consulting in-depth information on the characters in the story.

Have a closer look at the word "act" and analyze what the reader is supposed to do with the text of the eBooks. We'll discuss this in a later chapter.

u/Visual_Aide_2477 will make one more post and eventually created this subreddit, r/CyberReadArchives!!!

- https://www.reddit.com/r/lostmedia/comments/1f1gy70/fully_lost_cyberread_geronimo_stilton_ebooks_1999/

3 – BIRTH OF A SUBREDDIT

u/Visual_Aide_2477 earlier hesitated to make a subreddit and thought of other ways to get more people joining in his search till he decided to make a post on [r/geronimostilton](https://www.reddit.com/r/geronimostilton/comments/1f3hzk9/i_am_working_on_a_new_subreddit_what_are_your/).

- https://www.reddit.com/r/geronimostilton/comments/1f3hzk9/i_am_working_on_a_new_subreddit_what_are_your/

Thanks to Reddit user u/Fun_Sir_2771, the only one who commented on it. He did the job!

As time went by in one night, u/Visual_Aide_2477 tried hard to capture the aesthetic of the old CyberRead site. The following result is this! Pretty cool, huh! He made the banner, the logo, the flairs, everything almost.



This is a screenshot taken at a later time when our subreddit (the subreddit featured in this chapter) had 114 members, now it's 155!

Sadly, almost all the original posts from its founding on August 28th to the time u/Visual_Aide_2477 left being the only moderator at that time (losing all flairs) and returning back after a 15 day wait (according to the laws of r/redditrequest (link not provided)) and earned his flairs again. A new flair, "Announcement" is available now.

Today, there are three moderators of this subreddit, u/Visual_Aide_2477 himself, u/gabodelabarca and u/Ok-West6066 who was also one of the subreddit's first members after this:

- https://www.reddit.com/r/geronimostilton/comments/1f3xoh2/who_wants_to_join_rcyberread_archives/

If you search "subreddit" in r/geronimostilton, you can find more information on how this subreddit came to be.

Also, haven't you noticed 93% of the posts in our subreddit (you also noticed there's a link to it on the cover of this guide as well) are made by u/Visual_Aide_2477. The truth is really sad. It seems people who are willing to help him don't understand where to search. So that's why we've given a "RESOURCES" chapter in this guide.

However, on a great day when 28 members turned 55 in total (the cycle repeated some weeks ago, with 128 members in total turning into 155). A new member named u/Redraddle (who was also one of the helpers for the search on Everyone Knows That) posted this:

- https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives/comments/1fi6g48/has_this_been_seen_yet/

For the very first time, someone else posted on our subreddit. We still hope for so many more instances of others posting once we reach more than 200 members in total.

The document in the link he provided which was made in 2001 contains only one mention of the eBooks... ***Avventure di Geronimo Stilton***.

So far, we've got lots more to detail. In reality, for at least three months, all what we uncovered was just basic information with no plot content of the eBooks at all implied or mentioned. That's the biggest mystery. We wish to show you artwork made by u/Visual_Aide_2477 but we are focusing on the eBooks and not the subreddit so please, direct message us through our Discord server if you wish to. For this, ask us on the comments section of any post on our subreddit. Make sure to setup an account or login if you already have one for Discord. We can't provide a link here as it can cause issues over time.

Now, we'll tell you about a user mentioned earlier in the next chapter, u/Ok_Hope4383!!!

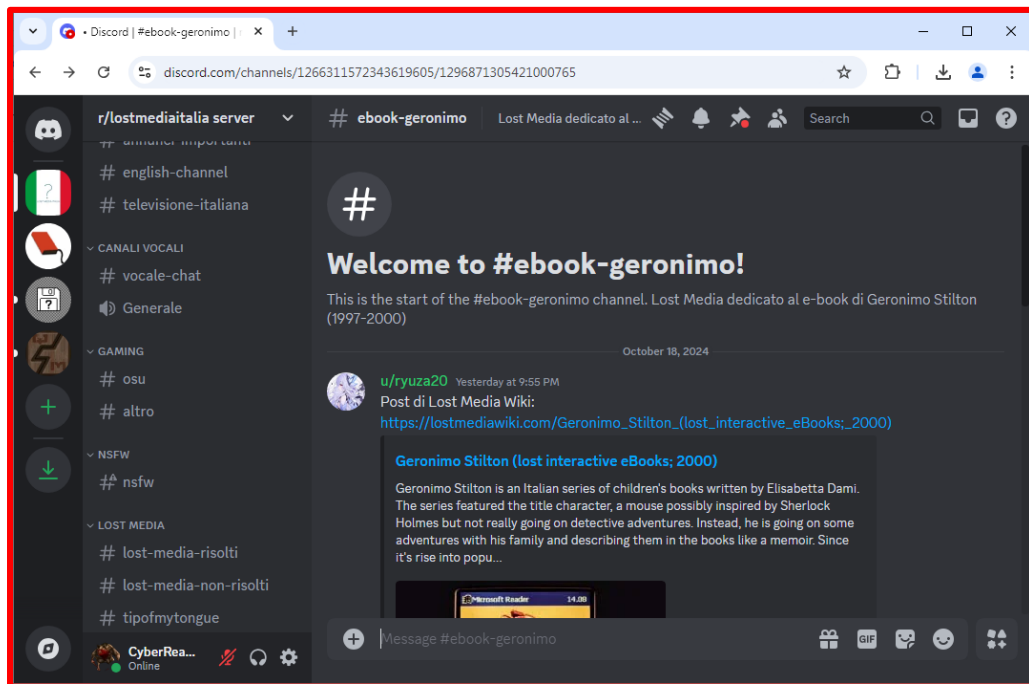
4 – THE REAL HUNT BEGINS

u/Ok_Hope4383 took off (kind of) with a post sharing new evidence on the lost eBooks. Including the source of the image in the first chapter of this guide:

- https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives/comments/1fipib0/more_references_to_geronimo_o_stilton_ebooks_in/

The guide you are reading itself is sort of an interactive document, we took inspiration (a little) from the lost eBooks by providing link after link.

After sometime, a great miracle came after u/Redraddle posted about the lost Geronimo Stilton eBooks in Italian on r/Lostmediaitalia which created a sensation, leading to a channel on their Discord server (again ask us if you want to join).



That was the channel when it started (as seen in the image above), now it has more than 98 members and is getting popular over time. Meanwhile, before and after this Discord channel was created, some eBooks were found (actually not all were published by CyberRead, but at least sold there). One interesting thing about this search was that by this year already, Glassbook Reader itself became lost media till u/Visual_Aide_2477 found a CD of it in an old box (a later version shortly after Adobe's acquisition named Adobe Acrobat e-Book Reader (you may have remembered that in this guide earlier). He later uploaded it to the Internet Archive along with Microsoft Reader (which he got in a software package and extracted). Also, all of the first lost media found by us were all by u/Visual_Aide_2477.

The Internet Archive links for what he has found (including a few Geronimo Stilton eBooks):

- <https://archive.org/details/geronimo-stilton-lost-e-books-required-software>
- <https://archive.org/details/lost-geronimo-stilton-ebooks>
- <https://archive.org/details/missing-e-books>
- https://archive.org/details/segnal_lettura

If you want to know what the interfaces of Adobe Acrobat e-Book Reader (Glassbook Reader) and Microsoft Reader looks like, have a go at these links:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20001109074800/http://www.glassbook.com/flash/demo.htm>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20001119014600/http://glassbook.com/index.htm>
- https://www.reddit.com/r/CyberReadArchives/comments/1g8k6zq/microsoft_reader_help_running_on_microsoft_reader/
- https://www.reddit.com/r/vintagecomputing/comments/1fukva4/installing_microsoft_reader_and_running_it_on/
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6leuUdQQVXM>

The reliability of these links may depend on your opinions, the fact that the reddit links are posts made by u/Visual_Aide_2477 is interesting. Glassbook Reader Plus is nothing really and the interface of Adobe Acrobat e-Book Reader is the same as the interface of Glassbook Reader.

Also, as for what happened beforehand, u/Visual_Aide_2477 made an [article](#) on Lost Media Wiki (link within word “article”).

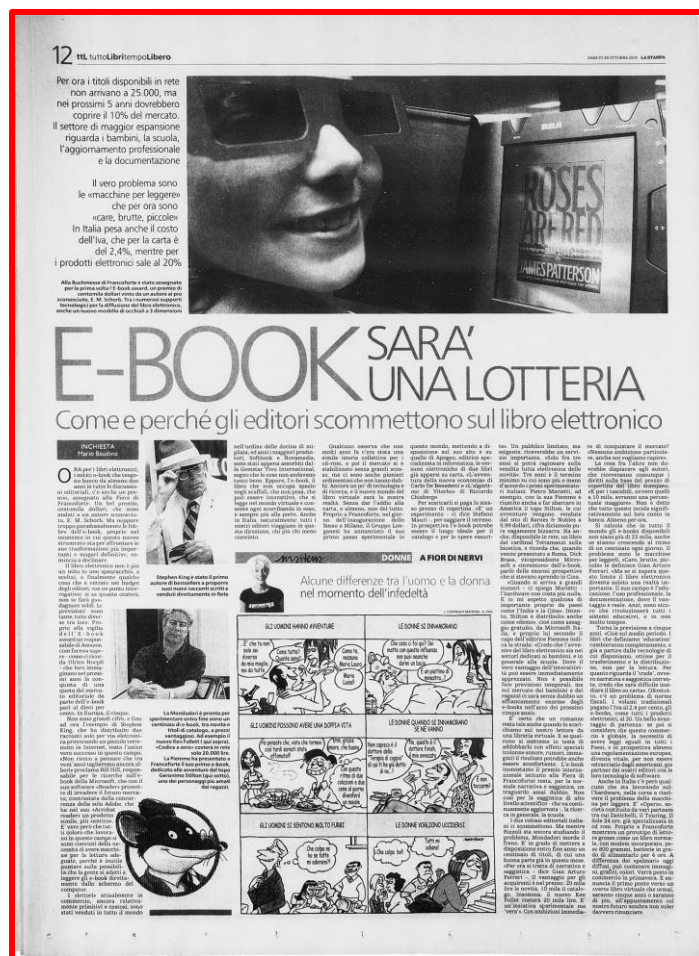
You may be thinking of what may have contributed to the big boom in interested people, the next chapter will tell you all about it.

FUN FACT – LSuperSonicQ (a famous YouTuber channel) knows about the situation with the Geronimo Stilton eBooks but hasn’t discussed about it yet!

5 – RISE OF THE HUNT

After sometime, u/Visual_Aide_2477 checked the Discord channel for the eBooks (#ebook-geronimo) for some news and there it was!

A Discord user named Mica (who also has a Reddit account) had uploaded a mysterious PDF named 0456_04_2000_1233_0012. u/Visual_Aide_2477 checked it and here is the result:



See, this page is from the Italian newspaper "La Stampa" from its archives *(<http://www.archiviolaStampa.it/>) (see note at end of chapter)) and it's only a mention of the eBooks (upcoming at that time). Translation is not really necessary but it states that the addition of interactive features like sound

effects, images and more could make a discouraging eBook (is that why it was removed?).

On that same day, CyberReadArchiver (the Discord account of u/Visual_Aide_2477) discovered another PDF of a newspaper archived on the 25th October, 2000 (the one in the image above was archived only three days later (October 28th)). We can't show the full image for now, but this:



The section was translated into English by Discord user Serena and here is the result (two parts with possible mistakes):

- Geronimo Stilton, in hair and bones (of a good actor), nods happy. The very popular mouse-publisher between very young people who buy books with his "funny stories". But from short interventions and gestures does shine through proudness of being the protagonist of the

first eBook made in Italy. The publisher Piemme chose his adventures for debut in the publishing market of the third millennium, playing ahead on much other competitors that for now are announcing, projecting and above all talk. Even Pietro Marietti, president of this publisher that he created, with the book series "Il Battello a Vapore" (Steamboat), an editorial reality of children's fiction who bills 40 billions at years (40 percent of global turnover) it's satisfied during the occasion of presentation. Satisfied and Enthusiastic, how could be who's convinced that the street of electronic books (look "tuttoscienze" from February 23th 2000) is a street with great prospects, on which everything isn't still smooth and that however, we must begin to walk with courage if you want to conquer your own space. Yes, being already there, full of experience, before that begins "the assault to diligence of electronic publisher". And being in an international level, like Piemme did, with a product who speak even in English and participated at the first edition of "Frankfurt eBook Award", assigned to the Frankfurt Book Fair. Piemme's eBook isn't a simple tronic transposition of paper volumes of Geronimo Stilton, but a new imaginary creation for this format edited by Elisabetta Adami. Realized with Microsoft Reader (but another version in Glassbook format by Adobe is announced) the electronic book offers several interactivity opportunities.

- A click on the character's name and a window is open with its description, another on a word whose meaning is ignored and now the dictionary is open. The readability of the text, on the liquid crystals screen, is very good thanks to the greater character definition that Clear Type offers, is good even the draw's vision. When the Microsoft Reader will be further developed you'll can put sounds and animate draws, opportunity that will make the eBook for kids (and not just them) more and more interesting. The price of this first electronic book made in Italy of 300 pages is of 18.000 Italian lira circa and at the first Piemme's title plans to support other 20 since here to june 2001. They will be trait to the book series "Steamboat" with others popular characters like Inkiostrik, Valentina, Capitan Mutanda, Guidone Mangiaterra. But, maybe, Piemme also begins with eBook for the big public. Pietro Marietti, despite he doesn't love announces but prefers always talk about things just when have been realized, he always let escape that for the end of the year, would be some surprise in this sense. In the meanwhile, "readers" are coming, devices where you can

read the eBooks. If now you can do it on your home computer, PCs and on Pocket Pc (but to the very little screens) in the Smau of Milano, Fabio Falzea announces, Corporate Marketing Director of Microsoft Italy, will be introduced liquid crystals devices, with screen that will have the dimension of a book page and thought for the youngest readers. They have a colorful rubber bodywork capable of make them more resistant to the more turbulent users: are produced by Ipm-Net from Naples. But a lot of models are announced for an adult public, that re-propose the weight and dimensions of a book and with prices that they will be around 800,000 Italian lira, we will start to see them between the end of this year and the beginning of the next.

You now may have got the idea despite the mistakes but it's useful still. Mica also found more, in which we will show the translations. Don't worry, the original PDFs will be soon at the Internet Archive, real soon! Here's one:

AT THE CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, GERONIMO STILTON TAKES THE LEAD

A mouse is the king of e-books for children

A successful character, he receives thousands of emails. Among the awarded e-books, a recognition also goes to the Harry Potter game

Giorgia gaberglio

Geronimo Stilton is a mouse. But not just any mouse: he's a writer, a journalist, and a traveler. He's a mouse who has created a website and a new way to interact with his young readers. And he made an e-book, with which he won an important award. Geronimo Stilton is the winner of the "Children's e-book Award," which will be presented tomorrow (for the first time) at the opening day of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Dressed somewhat old-fashioned, in a dark green suit, red tie, and beige vest (of course, without shoes),

Stilton will receive an important recognition for establishing himself in children's publishing both through books and the online world. The e-book with which he wins the first prize, in a contest born from the collaboration between the Fair and the American International e-book Award Foundation, is titled My First Internet Manual (EmotionBook, Microsoft). But for the little mouse editor of Eco del Roditore (Rodent's Echo), the Internet is nothing new. Once he got over thinking that the mouse was an animal like him, he created a website (www.geronimostilton.com) and now receives thousands of emails from his readers. As for the e-book, the story begins last year when his publisher (Piemme) chose him as the protagonist of the world's first children's e-book, made in Microsoft Reader and Glassbook

formats.

For the mouse, it's a personal success: "No mozzarella about it! - Stilton admits, sharing in an interview on www.lastampa.it. My whiskers are tingling with excitement. I'm happy that my book won the award for best children's e-book in the world: I feel like a bit of a pioneer and I'm thrilled to be able to participate and contribute to this great adventure that is the e-book."

Alongside Stilton, the 2002 winner, another Italian e-book received a special mention: The Bible and the Life of Jesus by Dami Editore (EmotionBook, Microsoft), awarded for its illustrations, texts, and the second reading level dedicated to adults accompanying the young readers. The other special mention went to the French e-book Les Histoires

Epouvantables de Maitre Frisson.

The multimedia aspect of youth culture couldn't be excluded at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. For some time now, the event has also established another award: the "Bologna New Media Prize," recognizing products that best integrate books with software. This year, out of 987 titles from 13 countries, the winners were: The German Bioscopia (Heureka - Klett Softwareverlag GmbH), a game exploring the mysteries of biology; The Swedish Fingus bei den Mucklas (Gammafon Multimedia), where young readers enter a story by writer Sven Nordqvist and interact with it; The American Zoo Tycoon (Microsoft Corporation), a simulation game about building a zoo.

And some more:

Booksellers: eBooks Won't Kill Us

But the Risk is There, in the long run, independent bookstores might face extinction, supermarkets are also a concern

Giovanna Favro

At a Book Fair more focused than ever on the new frontiers of electronic publishing—from buying books online to the launch of eBooks—the top Italian publisher Mondadori is present solely to showcase this type of product. In their small Segrate stand, there isn't a single physical book, only computers. Meanwhile, there's another event with a title that sounds like a counterpoint, if not a manifesto: "Books are sold in bookstores." Organized by SII, the Italian booksellers' union, its national president, Anna Parola (also organizer of the children's section), doesn't dramatize the situation but admits, "We don't exactly have an enemy, but certainly an added challenge." This currently involves a niche market, but who knows what tomorrow will bring?

One fact is clear: eBooks cannot be purchased in bookstores. They're only available online, paid for with a credit card. The only option for physical stores is to allow customers to purchase printed books via the Internet. Rodrigo Dias, national president of another booksellers' union, Ali (affiliated with Confcommercio, like SII with Confesercenti), notes, "Today, e-commerce takes away 0.4% of our revenue. Internet book sales alone account for about 10 billion lire, out of a total of 6,700 billion. But two years ago, it was only 3 billion, and the year before that, just 1 billion. It's clear there's a slow but steady

growth, which concerns us, and it's disheartening to see publishers selling books online at much lower prices, making it unfair competition." Anna Parola adds, "In the long run, the risk is the extinction of independent bookstores. We have to compete with supermarkets, foreign chains entering Italy, and a law that favors large distributors by allowing discounts of up to 15% for the public. That's huge when you consider that for school textbooks, we only save between 15% and 19% of the cover price." She continues, "We're cultural operators, yet we don't receive any state support. Booksellers read the books they recommend and sell culture. We're adapting by creating websites and virtual stores. For now, eBooks aren't a threat, but it's hard to say what will happen in the future. Personally, I believe the real book is the one made of paper, which you can touch and smell, but who knows?" Yesterday at the fair, the challenges faced by small publishers struggling to get their books distributed in bookstores were discussed, while eBook advocate Enrico Andini highlighted the future of digital publishing. Gandini, who developed the first eBook for children with Piemme (presented in Frankfurt last year), remarked, "E-commerce for printed books has nothing to do with eBooks. The second level involves digitizing printed books — Piemme offers around forty electronic books,

which naturally cost a bit less than traditional versions due to the lack of warehouse, transportation, and distribution costs. However, these cannot be sold in stores in disk form, as it's impossible to prevent them from being copied endlessly by customers." True eBooks, Gandini emphasized, are born for multimedia platforms, including portable devices that can be taken to the beach or on trips, capable of storing thousands of volumes in just a few ounces of weight. "Real eBooks, like our Geronimo Stilton's Humorous Tales presented in Frankfurt, go beyond the structural limits of paper. While reading, when you come across a character's name, you can either continue or click for more information about them. We've added links for jokes, and you can include music and animations. The eBook is only seen as a 'lesser' form because it came after the paper book, but its potential is immense. And imagine the pleasure, in the middle of the night, while traveling on the other side of the world, of connecting online, purchasing a book that was just released in Italy that same day, and beating insomnia in the process!" The Book Fair in Turin has also been exploring the very young audience as a target for new digital publishing initiatives.

Several more:

A mouse who is a newspaper editor, the first e-book for children.

Piemme is the first Italian publishing house to release an e-book for children, created using Microsoft Reader technology. The book, aimed at children aged 4 (if read with parents) to 12, features Geronimo Stilton, a mouse who is the editor of the newspaper Eco del Roditore (Rodent's Echo). With this e-book, Piemme is participating in the first edition of the Frankfurt e-book Award at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

For more, go see Discord (we can't share more probably due to copyright issues with La Stampa's owners (if any)). If it's unfair, please don't blame us. We are doing this for the best of your experience reading this guide.

The details may be basic so far as we are still searching for those eBooks. We uncovered a few surprises, how the eBooks were made (probably), book fairs where it was first shown (Frankfurt and Bologna), price tags and more but we are not really sure. However more evidence has been found that will be discussed soon in this chapter.

We are not including many as they contain similar material (again, descriptions of basic content already known by us). Here's what we found so far since then...

First of all, u/Visual_Aide_2477 found out something while checking some PC Open magazines, it seemed that Microsoft had taken a deal with the publishers of Geronimo Stilton to create the eBooks and one more, Il Mio Primo manuale di Internet which we are still searching for. Also, on the site for PC Open (archived) has this detail:

The screenshot shows the PC Open website as it appeared in November 2000. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.pcover.it:80/>. The website's header features the "PC OPEN on line" logo. Below the logo, the date "Data odierna: 18-11-2000" and "Sito aggiornato: 16-11-2000" are displayed. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "I servizi di Pc Open", lists various services such as "Dizionario Visuale Hardware Free Download", "Cosa offriamo agli abbonati", "Entra nel club di Pc Open", "Chiedere, suggerire, criticare", "La piazza di Pc Open", "Per orientarsi nella scelta L'orologio e la bussola", "Da cogliere al volo Le occasioni del mese", "Per usare bene Internet", and "La guida Informex-PcOpen". The right column, titled "Su Pc Open in edicola", features several articles with accompanying images: "E-book made in Italy", "Hard Disk: con SCSI è più veloce", "Sfida nel far web", and "Col Pentium 4 oltre i 3 GHz". On the far right, there is a sidebar with links: "Il cd rom num 43", "consulta il sommario completo", and "download sommario". The footer of the website contains a navigation bar with icons and text: "HOME PAGE", "SCEGLIERE BENE", "USARE", "I PROGRAMMI", "SCRIVERE", and "CONSULTARE".

One funny thing we realized is that the title "E-book made in Italy" is in English as it leads to this criticism.

- È dedicato ai bambini, il primo libro elettronico italiano. Ma è in inglese. Colpa di un concorso o mossa prudente? Ecco come vanno i primi passi degli editori italiani verso l'E-book

When u/Visual_Aide_2477 translated it (ironically), it read:

- It is dedicated to children, the first Italian e-book. But it is in English. Is it the fault of a competition or a prudent move? Here is how the first steps of Italian publishers towards the E-book are going.

Let us examine the first sentence again:

- It is dedicated to children, the first Italian e-book.

Check this again and you'll really realize why looking for these eBooks is really important.

Unfortunately, on the site, it leads somewhere else. We've checked all known leads for the eBooks or at least evidence (we believe now the search for evidence of the book's existence is complete) from simple searches to even torrents!

If you want to see the site yourself (PC Open), check here:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20001118101200/http://www.pcopen.it:80/>

Well in one of u/Visual_Aide_2477's post on Reddit, u/Ok_Hope4383 uncovered a shocking discovery in the comments (hyperlink removed)!

- Se un big muove ancora i primi passi, un altro, molto più piccolo, ha già prodotto i primi ebook. È Piemme, casa editrice di Casale Monferrato (Alessandria) che ha appena presentato, il 20 ottobre scorso al Frankfurt e-book award, il primo premio letterario dedicato al libro elettronico, presenterà due e-book. «La nostra casa editrice - spiega Pietro Marietti, presidente della Piemme - è leader nella letteratura infantile e giovanile con la collana Battello a vapore. Nell'ambito di questa abbiamo appena lanciato un nuovo personaggio, Geronimo Stilton, un simpatico editore che ha le sembianze di un topo, che sarà il protagonista degli e-book". I due libri, in inglese, sono realizzati con Microsoft Reader e Glassbook e sono acquistabili in rete al prezzo di 9,99 dollari la copia presso il sito www.geronimostilton.it. Secondo il presidente della casa editrice di Casale Monferrato, si tratta di prodotti creati ad hoc per il nuovo formato ai quali si aggiungeranno nei prossimi mesi una ventina di titoli. Una volta acquistato il libro non potrà essere stampato o copiato, ma potrà essere trasferito a un altro utente anche se in questo modo chi l'ha acquistato ne perde definitivamente il possesso.

This Italian text is taken from the same issue of PC Open mentioned in earlier chapters. When u/Ok_Hope4383 translated it, it read:

- While a big company is still taking its first steps, another, much smaller one, has already produced its first e-books. It is Piemme, a publishing house from Casale Monferrato (Alessandria) that has just presented, on October 20th at the Frankfurt e-book award, the first literary prize dedicated to the electronic book, and will present two e-books. «Our publishing house - explains Pietro Marietti, president of Piemme - is a leader in children's and youth literature with the Battello a vapore series. As part of this we have just launched a new character, Geronimo Stilton, a friendly editor who looks like a mouse, who will be the protagonist of the e-books". The two books, in English, are made with Microsoft Reader and Glassbook and can be purchased online at a price of 9.99 dollars per copy at the site www.geronimostilton.it. According to the president of the Casale Monferrato publishing house, these are products created specifically for the new format to which about twenty titles will be added in the coming months. Once purchased, the book cannot be printed or copied, but can be

transferred to another user, although in this way the person who purchased it permanently loses possession of it.

This sentence “Once purchased, the book cannot be printed or copied, but can be transferred to another user, although in this way the person who purchased it permanently loses possession of it.” Reveals a very likely cause for the eBooks to go out of nowhere along with this reason:

- <https://www.businessinsider.com/why-ebooks-failed-in-2000-and-what-it-means-for-2010-2010-3>

For now, it is still not confirmed how it ended but with all this discoveries and frequent reposts on r/UnresolvedMysteries (link not given), our subreddit managed to reach more than 150 subscribers and even more coming up. Although it says 155 subscribed for now, by the time you download it, there could be more joining.

You now learned the entire story of all this through a fun way with a bit of interactivity (we don’t know how to add animations, profiles yet). If you want to join the subreddit. Just click the ‘Home’ key on your keyboard and click the highlighted blue text on the cover page. Ignore any warnings.

This is the end; you have reached it. We are sorry not to include all of the sources as there are issues. Also, this is a guide (guides request you to do your own research too) so you must also do your own duty even if it sounds forced. If you like this guide, share the PDF with friends but it’s better to share it with those involved in the lost media community. Be prepared for the next chapters...

Note – When clicking on the link for the La Stampa Archives, you may get a privacy error, it is due to issues with the site’s host. Just click on the “Advanced” button and click on the “proceed to” link and you’re done! It depends on which browser you use. If not Google, it may work fine even without errors.

6 – RESOURCES TO LOOK FOR

After reading this guide, you may be compelled to do your own research so here are some resources for you to look for and to get help:

- Internet Archive (where we get most info and evidence) - <https://archive.org/>
- Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/>
- Wayback Machine Downloader (Important) - <https://github.com/hartator/wayback-machine-downloader>
- Any Scholar site (mainly Italian) if possible
- Wikipedia (for lost media research) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_media
- Lost Media Wiki - <https://lostmediawiki.com/Home>
- Lost Media Archive - https://lostmediaarchive.fandom.com/wiki/Lost_Media_Archive
- The Lost Media And Research Handbook - <https://sites.google.com/view/lostmediahandbook/lost-media-and-research-handbook>

There could be more out there...

7 – CONCLUSION

Even though with this sentence “Once purchased, the book cannot be printed or copied, but can be transferred to another user, although in this way the person who purchased it permanently loses possession of it.” Can be very discouraging and can make the search difficult. Remember the historic significance of the eBooks. It may not be possible that these are the very first children eBooks as several printed in that same year predate them, that exaggeration may have helped the eBooks reach their popularity but for their disappearance. It would have been some copyright issues which further exemplifies what happened to the iPad apps explained earlier.

So far, this guide features all of the available information known currently and cannot change when update comes. This is an introduction to those already involved in lost media searches and can be very useful in terms of research.

We hope this guide reaches lots of lost media enthusiasts. It cannot be sold or printed as no one may really want to if it’s done but it should interest people and at least those on our subreddit (r/CyberReadArchives).

You may already know why our subreddit was named so was because u/Visual_Aide_2477 felt there could be more from that site (as it also used to publish eBooks) out there. For now, we are also looking for a Vietnam War epic published by CyberRead named Terminal Resolve written by a man named Brisbin (sounds very Australian). You can read a portion of it here:

- https://web.archive.org/web/20010201150700/http://www.cyberread.com/detail.asp?PRODUCT_ID=CRIN:10370CRC

As time goes by, some things disappear from the Internet and other media locations. They can be lost forever or lost until someone finds them or about their existence and shares information about it. That way, any lost eBook published by CyberRead or sold can be found if it with that understanding. This will soon help create a better world for the curious ones out there like we literally are.

8 – THANKS

To everyone involved in this project and providing us assistance, especially those in the Discord channel on Lost Media Italia's Discord server.

This guide is dedicated to:

Discord user Incubo!

